Safety Talk

Don't get burned!

Preventing Burns. Are you or your employees exposed to any potential burn hazards? There are three basic causes or sources of burn accidents:

1. Fire & High Heat
2. Electricity
3. Chemicals

As a supervisor you should make sure your assigned workers are aware of the potential burn hazards in their areas and how to prevent "getting burned".

Prevent Fire Hazards

- Take special care with hot tools
- Smoke only in designated areas
- Do not use liquid fuel heaters indoors
- Keep flammables away from heaters
- Store flammable liquids properly
- Clean up flammable liquid spills
- Place used rags in approved safety cans
- Know the fire prevention plan

Prevent Chemical Burns

- Label all containers properly
- MSDS are available and used
- Proper PPE available and used
- PPE checked before use
- Ensure people wash after using

Prevent Electrical Burns

- Is all wiring insulation in good condition?
- Are all machines electrically grounded?
- Take care to prevent overloading electrical circuits
- Make sure only qualified people work on electrical systems
- Use insulated tools on electrical circuits
- Use Electrical PPE
- Lockout before working

If You Get Burned- If you or another worker is burned, do you know what to do? Treat all burns as serious. Any burn can be an opportunity for infection. **Seek medical attention immediately.**

- Don't put ice, ointment or any other material directly on the burned area.
- For chemical burns, flush the skin immediately for 15 minutes and check the MSDS for further first aid instructions.
- Don't break any blisters that may form.
- Keep burned area elevated.
- Use cool water only on first or second degree burns.
- Have all burns evaluated by a medical professional.
- If the burn was caused by chemicals, provide the MSDS to the doctor.

Severity of Burns

FIRST DEGREE: A burn that causes reddening of the skin but no blistering is a first-degree burn. Burn is painful but does not leave a scar.

SECOND DEGREE: A burn that causes blisters is a second-degree burn. Typically this burn is divided into superficial and deep second-degree burns.

THIRD DEGREE: A third-degree burn penetrates the entire thickness of skin layers and permanently destroys tissues. It presents as a white, black or mottled hard, dry wound, from which hairs are easily pulled out. No pain is present.

FOURTH DEGREE: Fourth degree burns injure and expose muscle, bone, and tendons, and may require amputation of extremities.